

Application No.: 10/708,405

Docket No.: 22040-00029-US

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-43, and 45-51 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 12-14, 17-21, 24-25, 28-30, 33, 38-39, and 45-47 are independent. Claims 30, 33, and 45 have been amended to correct obvious typographical errors.

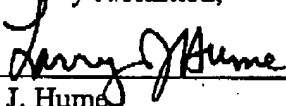
Previously presented claims 48-51 are multiply dependent.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims 1-6, 8-43, and 45-51 in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 22040-00029-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

By


Larry J. Hume

Registration No.: 44,163

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800

Washington, DC 20036-3425

(202) 331-7111

(202) 293-6229 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant